

February 21, 2012

Senator Harp  
Representative Walker

APPROPRIATIONS COMM

I am here to address Bill Number 5014 which reduces the Judicial Personnel budget by 3.2 million dollars. This budget cut affects the Cold Case unit which has worked tirelessly to bring justice to families who had all but given up.

I ask you, to take a minute, and place yourselves in my position as a father, grandfather, husband, mourner and consoler. For the past six years I have grieved and mourned the loss of my oldest daughter Kathleen Hardy. Kathy was murdered one early morning in March 2006, when her cozy home was set on fire, trapping her to die in the inferno. Kathy was a loving mother who left behind two beautiful daughters, and a son. What do you do to come to grips with something like this, what do you say to the ones you love? Only justice will make it right. Only a thorough and complete investigation leading to arrest and conviction can ease the pain we feel. My family and I have been through every phase of emotions you could imagine, elation when we heard that arrests are going to be made soon, disappointment when those arrests could not be made, and this happened over and over until my daughter's case went cold. Now my Kathleen is a Cold Case. When we were made aware of this, a deep despair set in, and despair that was palpable. My wife and I fear that we will go to our graves without ever seeing our Kathy's murderer brought to justice. Our hopes were raised, and our spirits lifted in July 2011, when the Cold Case Unit agreed to investigate Kathy's murder. We knew that this unit worked hard and had an excellent performance record for solving cold cases. We were able to spend the summer confident that finally justice was going to be served. We had been told the investigation would begin in January 2012; we waited anxiously to hear of the progress being made, only to find out that funding was going to be cut. This could only mean our Kathy will be a cold case again. Please do not let this happen. No one should be able to get away with murder, but they surely will if the cold case unit is not funded. As a father I will beg you keep funding in place for the cold case unit.

Sincerely,

Robert Barrett